

**GERMANY'S REPLY  
 TO NOTE OF U. S. IS  
 FIRM BUT CORDIAL**

**Declares Drastic Naval Policy  
 Toward Great Britain Was  
 Made Necessary by Attempts  
 to Cut Off Food Supply.**

**WANTS DECLARATION  
 OF LONDON RATIFIED**

**Kaiser's Government Says Ob-  
 servance of Agreed Rules  
 Will Allow Modification of  
 Her Maritime Policy.**

**BULLETIN.**  
 COPENHAGEN, Feb. 18.—The Danish government today defied the German war zone decree and dispatched 10 ships to England with cargoes including food stuffs.

BERLIN, Feb. 18.—Germany's reply to the note of the United States protesting against a submarine blockade of the British coast sets forth firmly the position of Germany, but at the same time the document is couched in cordial terms and shows a spirit of friendliness towards America. The German reply, which has been transmitted to Washington by Ambassador James W. Gerard, explains that Germany's drastic naval policy toward Great Britain was made necessary by the attempts of England to cut off the food supply of Germany's civil population.

A summary of the contents of the German reply was given out today. One of the proposals contained in the document is the suggestion that the declaration of London be ratified, in accordance with a suggestion made by the United States at the outbreak of the war, thus enabling Germany to import food and raw materials. With this ratification, it is pointed out, Germany would be in a position to modify her maritime policy.

**Express Good Will.**  
 The German reply is begun with the following expression of friendship toward the United States:

"The imperial government has examined the communication from the United States government in the same good will and friendship by which the communication seems to have been dictated.

"The imperial government is in accord with the United States government in that for both parties it is to a high degree desirable to avoid any misunderstanding which might arise from the measures announced by the German admiralty, and to provide against the occurrence of incidents which might trouble the friendly relations which so far happily exist between the two governments.

"With regard to assuring these friendly relations, the imperial government believes it may all the more reckon on a full assistance and will fully understand and appreciate the motives which impelled the proclamation of a war zone in English waters. The German government also suggests that the United States should not cause all American ships passing through the war zone waters be recognized by convoys of war ships flying the United States ensign. It is emphatically pointed out in this connection that only those ships carrying no contraband should be convoyed.

**Avoid War Zone.**  
 Regarding the flag question the German government recommends that American ships avoid the war zone around England. The hope is expressed that the United States will fully respect the struggle of Germany for her national existence and will fully understand and appreciate the motives which impelled the proclamation of a war zone in English waters.

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**Refer to Contrabands.**  
 In regard to the carrying of contrabands in neutral ships the imperial government expresses the hope that the United States government will be induced to observe the conduct which is in agreement with "a real spirit of neutrality."

Germany's reference to the transportation of contrabands is directed toward the shipment of guns, ammunition and other war munitions which have been made to England and France from American ports since the war broke out.

It is pointed out that Germany gave ample time (14 days) for neutral countries to prepare to meet war zone conditions. In other words the ships which have sailed for England since the German proclamation posted have voluntarily accepted responsibility for the dangers attending the voyage. The lengthy document vigorously defends Germany's present course throughout.

**RUSSIAN FIELD GUNS TAKING A SHALLOW FORD**



Although big mobile guns have revolutionized modern warfare and rendered fortresses obsolete, they have not entirely usurped the place of light artillery. Despite the horse power of the largest and most powerful tractors and automobiles, it is not feasible and possible to move the heavy cannons everywhere that the lighter batteries, drawn by horse, can go. The photograph shows a battery of Russian field guns being swirled across a shallow stream at a ford. Some of the small calibre batteries can cover as much ground in a day as a platoon of cavalry.

**GERMAN CRUISER  
 SINKS 5 BRITISH  
 MERCHANT SHIPS**

**Kron Prinz Wilhelm Wrecks  
 Havoc with English Vessels  
 Off East Coast of South  
 America.**

BUENOS AYRES, Feb. 18.—Four British steamers and a British schooner of a total tonnage of 11,874 have been sunk off the east coast of South America by the German converted cruiser Kron Prinz Wilhelm, which before the war was a North German Lloyd liner. This was learned today from Capt. Dreyer of the German steamer Holger, which arrived last night, bringing 314 persons comprising the crews of the destroyed English ships.

The steamers sunk by the Kron Prinz Wilhelm were the Highland Brae, 4,824 tons; the Potaro, 2,810 tons; the Hemisphere, 2,230 tons; and Semantha, 1,811 tons. The three-masted schooner, Wilfred M., 199 tons, was also sent to the bottom by the cruiser.

After the vessels had been sunk by the Kron Prinz Wilhelm the Holger was summoned from Pernambuco by the captain of the cruiser to take aboard the passengers and crews of the British vessels. After leaving the Kron Prinz Wilhelm the Holger was pursued near Montevideo by two British cruisers, but succeeded in escape owing to a heavy fog.

The Highland Brae which was the most important victim of the Kron Prinz Wilhelm, was sunk two weeks after leaving London for Buenos Ayres. She was sent to the bottom near the Brazilian port of Pernambuco after her cargo, coal, crew and passengers had been removed to the Kron Prinz Wilhelm.

**Passengers Well Treated.**  
 The passengers stated today that they had received good treatment from the Germans, both on the cruiser and on the Holger, to which they were transferred near the Brazilian coast a few days after the Highland Brae was sunk.

They complained, however, of a lack of comfort on board the Holger which is a coal-carrying tramp. Capt. Dreyer of the Holger stated that after he left Pernambuco in response to an aerogram from the cruiser he had considerable trouble in locating the Kron Prinz Wilhelm. She was on the high seas for several days before she came up to the cruiser.

The Holger, which is bringing a cargo from Bremen, had a crew of 60 men who will be compelled to remain here because they have no health certificates.

The Highland Brae was built in 1910; the Hemisphere in 1897; the Semantha in 1899, and the Wilfred M. in 1903.

**TASKA IS SENTENCED;  
 BARTOL PLEADS GUILTY**

**Youths Will Be Taken to Jeffersonville, One for Forgery and the Other for Larceny.**

Herbert Taska, 21 years old, was sentenced Thursday afternoon to serve from two to 14 years in the reformatory at Jeffersonville. The youth pleaded guilty Monday to the charge of having forged a note for \$250 on Christian Sieg and Charles Welder. Taska wanted to be sent to Michigan City but could not be on account of his age.

**Italy Fears Riot At Meeting  
 Of Pro-French War Party**

ROME, Feb. 18.—Ten thousand Italian troops marched into Rome at dawn today and took up positions where they would be at an advantage if any outbreak occurred at the demonstration in favor of France and her allies arranged for this afternoon. The demonstration was arranged by leaders of the democrats, republicans and nationalists as a patriotic move to force action for intervention in the war by parliament which reconvened today. Heavy guards of soldiers were thrown about the parliament building and about the war ministry. Guards were also placed about the Austrian and German embassies.

Great crowds surged through the streets early in the day gathering in the meeting place, but no attempts to arouse an attack upon the embassies had been made up to noon. The government had granted permission for the meeting but at the same time had given notice that no violence would be tolerated.

During the forenoon no German or Austrian residents were seen on the streets. The feeling against the subjects of these countries had been increased during the last few days by dispatches telling of Austria's military preparations on the Italian frontier.

A message that came from Brescia today declared that bridges in the Chiasso and Amoggia valleys had been mined by Austrians, extensive earthworks erected on the frontier and large stores of war material collected in the Trentino.

**CONCEDE STRENGTH OF  
 BRITISH CONTENTIONS**

**Weightier Differences Supplant  
 Question of Seizure of  
 Ships.**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—Comment on Sir Edward Grey's full report to the American protest against British interference with neutral shipping today was withheld in official circles. It is known, however, that the strength of the British position is recognized. It also is conceded that many of the contentions that the United States raised in the original note have been rendered valueless by succeeding events such as the German war zone declaration and the complete blockade of all German ports by Great Britain.

There is said to be no disposition in Washington now to pursue further differences with England over the seizure and detention of United States vessels in view of the much more dangerous problems before the United States government. With Germany placing her submarine blockade of England into effect, United States officials hid their real apprehension over the situation under a spirit of confidence that no disaster possibly could follow merchantment in British waters.

Germany's reply to the United States protest has not been received but its contents are understood thoroughly here. Germany will not recede from the position she has taken, but it is confidently predicted that neutral ships will be taken care of by the German submarine captains. This confidence is not based on any interchanges between the United States and the German governments, but only upon the belief that Germany does not desire wilfully to antagonize this nation.

It is expected that the test of the German submarine campaign will come within a week. Should Germany not wreak substantial damage to British shipping in this time the United States authorities will breathe easier.

PORT JERVIS, N. Y.—A spelling bee in the district school broke up when it got too dark to see as the school had no lights. Clarence Hughes, a school boy, was still at it when the end came, spelling 800 words correctly.

tenced to serve from one to eight years at Jeffersonville. Bartol was the last to plead guilty of the trio who robbed Perry Korn, a farmer, two months ago of \$14 in cash. Those associated with Bartol were Ralph McIntyre and Ernest Arnold.

**GERMANS ADMIT  
 BRITISH ADVANCE;  
 GIVE UP VILLAGE**

**Allies Still on Offensive Against  
 Right Wing, But French At-  
 tacks in Champagne Have  
 Ceased.**

BERLIN (by wireless), Feb. 18.—An official report from the German general staff issued here this afternoon, admits that the British troops on the road from Arras to Lille have made a slight gain and the village of Norroy north of Font-A-Mousson, has been evacuated by the Germans.

The allies are continuing their offensive against the right wing of the German forces, but the French attacks in Champagne have ceased. The general staff's report follows:

"The attacks of the enemy reported yesterday in the western theater of war continued, but with the same lack of success. On the road from Arras to Lille fighting continues for a small section of a German trench over the enemy entered on Feb. 18.

"The number of prisoners taken yesterday northeast of Rheims has been increased. The French losses were especially heavy. Their attacks have ceased in the Champagne region.

**French Lose Heavily.**  
 "North of Perthes fighting continues. East of Perthes the French were repulsed. They suffered heavy losses. Only at a few points did they succeed in advancing to the German trenches. The number of prisoners reported yesterday as the result of the fighting in this region has been increased to 11 officers and 755 soldiers.

"The enemies' attacks against the German positions near Boureville and Vanquois, east of the Argonne and east of Verdun failed completely.

"Hill No. 365 and the village of Norroy, north of Font-A-Mousson, which were taken on Feb. 13 by the Germans, have been evacuated after the complete destruction of the French fortifications. The enemy had made no attempt to reconquer these positions.

"Otherwise nothing of importance occurred on the west front.

"In the eastern theater, near Tannenberg and in the district northwest of Grodno, the pursuing German troops are fighting with the enemy.

**SUCCESS FOR ALLIES.**  
 PARIS, Feb. 18.—Several successes for the allies along the entire battle front are claimed in an official French communiqué issued this afternoon. The French have made a particularly big gain between the Argonne forest and the Meuse river, advancing 400 yards.

The communiqué follows: "It is now learned that the successful surprise attack which made us masters of two lines of German trenches to the north of Arras, northwest of Roencourt, caused heavy losses to the enemy.

"In Champagne, in the region of Perthes, all the ground gained yesterday and the day before has been held. Among the prisoners which we captured on Feb. 16 and Feb. 17 are officers and men of the 6th and 8th corps of the regular army and of the 8th, 10th and 12th reserve corps."

**FIRE LOSS \$100,000.**  
 BINGHAMPTON, N. Y., Feb. 18.—The plant of the American Fork and Hoe Co. was destroyed by fire this forenoon with a loss of \$100,000.

**CAR BURNS BURN.**  
 WESTBORO, Mass., Feb. 18.—The Big Boston and Worcester railway car barn was burned today with a loss of about \$100,000. The flames also destroyed \$9,000 interurban passenger cars.

**SOUTH BEND'S  
 SPRING FASHION WEEK.**

South Bend's Spring Fashion Week, March 8 to 12 inclusive, is to be just what the name implies, a week of display for all of the mercantile interests of the city. No business is so small, none so large that it will not have a part in this enterprising plan of publicity for the merchants of South Bend, and none will be given a valid excuse for not participating in an exposition which will be of absorbing interest to the public. The arrangement of all preliminaries for South Bend's Spring Fashion Week have been placed in the hands of the newspapers, with the cooperation of the merchants. These arrangements are now being made. When completed they will be announced in the newspapers. Letters have been mailed to all the merchants of South Bend soliciting their hearty cooperation in the harmonious decorative scheme to be adopted and in the display of seasonable goods, of whatever character. The Spring Fashion week will be a great opportunity for the merchants of South Bend. They should improve it to the utmost.

**RUSS AT BAY BEFORE  
 ADVANCING GERMANS**

**Terrific Drive from Thorn and  
 Soldau Presses Czar's Men  
 Hard in Poland.**

PETROGRAD, Feb. 18.—At bay in their positions in northern Poland on the right bank of the Vistula river, the Russians are withstanding terrific attacks by the German forces advancing from Thorn and Soldau. Reports received here today stated that the German drive was being checked on the Plock-Racone front, where the battle is raging with great intensity. Further Russian successes in the Carpathians were announced by the general staff, these including the capture of more than 1,400 prisoners at one point and the complete annihilation of a German battalion at another. Most of the men in this kind of action were killed by Russian bayonets. The survivors were captured. The official report of the general staff says:

"On the right bank of the Vistula the fighting is proceeding in almost the same region as yesterday with extreme desperation in certain sections, particularly about Plock.

"In the Niemen region (east of the German frontier) only patrols of the enemy have been encountered by our troops.

"There is no change on the left bank of the Vistula (the Izbura-Rawka front west of Warsaw).

**Repulse Attack in Galicia.**  
 "In Galicia we repulsed an attack yesterday on the front of Khayva-Vykorotch with heavy loss to the enemy. Further east the enemy sought to attack us but was unsuccessful in the Lubomir region. In repulsing this attack we captured 10 officers more than 1,400 men and three machine guns.

"On the front from Koziova to Wyszokow the Germans delivered a series of sustained and vigorous attacks, pushing forward vigorously in the direction of Wyszokow. All were repulsed with heavy losses to the enemy. Almost a whole battalion was bayoneted. The survivors were captured.

"The situation in Bukowina is unchanged."

**ALLIES IN NEW ATTACKS  
 ALONG WHOLE FRONT**

**French Make Gains in Cham-  
 pagne Which Are Considered  
 Unusually Important.**

PARIS, Feb. 18.—The new offensive move by the allies now extends over the greater part of the battle line and hard attacks have been delivered at half a dozen different points. The gains made by the French in the Champagne district are considered unusually important because of the nearness of the French to the German lines of communication in that region now.

German prisoners taken in that part of the field were in bad condition from exposure, and lack of food. They declared that many men in the trenches both officers and privates, had gone violently insane from the exposure, the strain of constant fighting and the horrible sights which continually greeted their eyes.

Sniping operations on the big scale, as well as fierce cannonading are reported from West Flanders. In Alsace the French are strengthening their positions.

This gigantic conflict has now been in progress for more than 22 weeks with only one important and decisive development. This was the breakdown of the German forces defending Alsace and the invasion of Alsace-Lorraine by the French.

It is believed that Emperor William will shortly pay another visit to the western front and that his appearance will be the signal for another series of German assaults such as those recently made along the Aisne, north-east of Soissons.

**FREEZING IS LATEST  
 HOOSIER SUICIDE ROUTE**

**Rep. Feick Introduces Measure  
 Said to Be in Line with Gov.  
 Ralston's Idea of Board of  
 Conciliation.**

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 18.—Hope for primary election legislation was revived in the senate today when a favorable report on the Van Auken bill for a referendum vote on the question of a state-wide primary law was presented. Sen. Van Auken is chairman of the senate elections committee and he was influential yesterday in killing the linear primary bill. Favorable reports were received by the senate today on the Cleary bill for the destruction of all left-over ballots and blue pencils at the closing of election places, the Thornton measure for the purchase of the old state capitol at Corydon, and Gummill's bill for a tax commission. Van Auken's bill to consolidate several state offices was killed. His kindred bill to increase the salaries of township officials in Gary to that of officials in cities of from 15,000 to 100,000 population was killed by the senate.

Sen. Zeigler's bill compelling the sale of fruits and nuts by weight was passed and Ballou's measure giving county commissioners power to act on drainage matters was passed unanimously. Sen. Van Auken's bill to modify the state educational law was also passed.

**Would Regulate Hospitals.**  
 In the house Rep. Vohr introduced a bill containing drastic regulations upon private hospitals. It provides that at any time an appointed inspector, county commissioner or grand jury can inspect any private hospital, and provides a fine of from \$100 to \$500 for any attempt to frustrate any attempted inspection.

**PRIMARY SUBJECT  
 MAY BE REFERRED  
 TO ALL VOTERS**

**Committee Makes Favorable  
 Report on Sen. Van Auken's  
 Bill Which Puts Question Up  
 to Popular Vote.**

**PROPOSE MEDIATION IN  
 LABOR CONTROVERSIES**

**Rep. Feick Introduces Measure  
 Said to Be in Line with Gov.  
 Ralston's Idea of Board of  
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**INDIANA'S 68TH  
 GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
 FROM THE NEWS-TIMES  
 INDIANAPOLIS BUREAU**

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Thirteen bills were introduced in the house today and 11 senate measures were introduced in the senate today. In the senate favorable reports were received on Sen. McCann's bill to provide for a preferential or advisory vote on legislation with the initiative by 10 per cent and the others of the state to compel the secretary of state to put desired legislation to a vote of the people at the ensuing election.

**Mediation is Provided.**  
 Mediation and conciliation in labor disputes is provided for under the Feick bill, introduced into the house today. It is understood the bill was shown to Gov. Ralston before its introduction and that the measure is in line with his plan for labor legislation, suggestion for a board of mediation.

The Feick bill would provide for a board of three members to be appointed by the governor where strikes, and labor controversies threaten the public welfare, and the governor may appoint the board upon his own motion, or on application of either party to the dispute. The board must be made up of one employer, one representative of labor and one disinterested person, none of the members to be a party to either side of the labor controversy in question. The bill carries an annual appropriation of \$7,500 to pay the board members \$10 a day for actual services and clerk hire.

Rep. Brannaman's bill seeking to eliminate several legal holidays in Indiana was presented to the house today and was so far from being a discovery day and New Year's day. If passed the bill will mean thousands of dollars to saloon men of the state as it would permit them to sell liquor openly on these days.

**Medium.**  
 With a view to striking a medium that would be acceptable to all parties concerned, the committee having in charge the proposed workmen's compensation law, handed down their report in the house today. The new bill is practically the same as the one presented earlier in the session by Rep. Sare. The measure fixes a schedule of 55 per cent of the average wage of an injured workman to be paid by his employer, with a maximum benefit of \$5,000. It fixes the minimum compensation at \$5 a week for total disability. The bill would create a commission of three members at a salary of \$4,000 a year each. The bill does not include the state insurance feature contained in other compensation measures offered at this session, the committee deciding that premature feature created an unnecessary expense.

**ACQUITS MRS. CLARK**  
 Judge Holds Evidence Not Sufficient to Sustain Charge.

Mrs. Guy Clark, charged with maintaining a house of ill fame at 519 S. Michigan st., was acquitted Thursday afternoon in the city court. The place was visited during the recent raids by the police and John Williams and Eileen Warner were arrested. Judge Warner held that the evidence was not sufficient.

**BUY IT NOW**  
 Don't squander your money. Luxuries can wait. But buy now the necessities you require. Don't wait until late in the spring. Put the money you must spend into circulation at once. Now is the time to sow a good act. You will reap your share.